

WORKING AT HEIGHTS

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The intent of this document is to eliminate or minimise the risks of fatalities, injuries and incidents arising from activities associated with working at height and using elevated work platforms at Gamuda Australia (GA) projects / workplaces. This standard applies to any work being performed off the ground, at an elevated level or being used to gain access to an elevated level, works carried out in close proximity to an opening, void or edge, work on or near a surface through which a person could potentially fall and work on or near an inclined or unstable surface.

CRITICAL CONTROLS

- The hierarchy of control shall be applied in determining the most appropriate method of controlling risks of fall from heights
- Safe access and egress are in place to work at height areas
- Personnel performing work at height are trained and competent
- Personnel that supervise work at height activities are trained and competent
- The perimeter of structures, edges, and working platforms must be protected by use of screens, guard rails and /or scaffolding systems to prevent persons or materials falling at all times
- Protection from falling objects must be provided through primary controls such as edge protection, with exclusion / drop zones, lanyards and/or overhead protection provided as a secondary means of control
- Penetrations, shafts, and risers must be protected to prevent fall of people, plant and/or materials
- Penetration covers must be robust, securely fastened and clearly identified
- Barriers and anchor points used during working at heights are fit for purpose
- A working at heights permit is in place prior to commencing work
- Stability, ground bearing pressure and slab capacity are assessed and verified for elevated work platform operations (Multiple plant loadings are considered)
- Training and instruction relating to emergency procedures must be provided for those doing the work and involved in emergency response
- EWP and scissor lift operators are verified as competent for specific items of plant
- Daily pre-start checks are completed for equipment used for working at heights

WORK AT HEIGHTS – CONTROL HIERARCHY

Any work that involves risk of a fall must as far as reasonably practicable, be eliminated, by carrying out the work from the ground or on a solid construction. Where this is not practicable, the risk of falls must be minimised by:

- Providing a fall prevention device if it is reasonably practicable to do so, or
- Providing a work positioning system, or
- Providing a fall arrest system.

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
CRITICAL RISK STANDARD
WORKING AT HEIGHTS



Solid construction means an area that has:

- a surface that is structurally capable of supporting all persons and things placed on it, and
- barriers around its perimeter and any openings to prevent a fall, and
- an even and readily negotiable surface and gradient, and
- a safe means of entry and exit.

A fall prevention device includes:

- a secure fence, and
- edge protection, and
- working platforms, and
- covers

The following table outlines work at heights control measure requirements.

Controls	Requirements
Work Positioning Systems (Elevated Work Platforms, Scissor Lifts, Swinging Stages)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All plant and equipment must be reviewed, risk assessed and approved as per GA ‘Critical Risk Standard –Traffic, Plant & Equipment’, in conjunction with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) and specific WHS regulations, codes of practice and standards. Physical barriers to be used as separation controls.
Fall Prevention Systems / Structures / Device (Scaffolding, work platforms, Screens, barriers, handrails, guardrails, anchorage points and covers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design of fall prevention systems, structures and devices must be designed and certified by a registered structural engineer and in conformance with GA requirements. - All fall prevention systems, structures and devices must be installed, verified, inspected, and maintained in accordance with manufacturers’ instructions, design and applicable Legislation, Codes of Practice and Australian Standards. - Fall prevention devices must be able to withstand ‘large dynamic loads’ caused by falls or objects and have safe working load limits indicated, where applicable. - Fall prevention systems, structures and devices are to be installed and regularly inspected by qualified and competent personnel. - Personnel are considered qualified and/or competent to install and inspect, if they hold the minimum competency as follows. Refer to inspection table below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o High Risk Work Licence specific to the scaffolding requirements. o High Risk Work Licence / Rigger (anchorage points). o Specific training provided by the manufacturer / supplier. - Platform ladders may be used once other higher order controls have been exhausted. No step ladders or other ladders are to be used as a working platform.

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<p>Fall Arrest / Restraint Systems (Permit to Work at Heights Requirement)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fall arrest is of two major types: general fall arrest, such as nets / catch decks; and personal fall arrest, such as lifelines, all of which must be installed and used by trained and competent personnel – Safe Work at Heights Qualification. – Personal Fall Protection Equipment shall be managed using a Permit to Work at Height and in accordance with the AS/NZS 1891 suite of standards.
<p>Exclusion and Drop Zones (For working at height related exclusion or drop zone/s)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – As a rule of thumb when the working height is less than 20 metres, a working at height related exclusion or drop zone should adhere to a 1 to 3 ratio. However, as a general rule, a minimum drop zone radius of 4m should be established (where practicable). – Where this is not feasible or practicable due to factors such as the proximity of surrounding structures or buildings, the exclusion / drop zone shall be as large as possible with the primary focus of preventing materials falling in the first instance, and secondary, protecting personnel working on other levels or on the ground below. – If adjacent work areas have intersecting exclusion / drop zone/s, there should be consultation with any affected persons and the development of agreed controls prior to works commencing, such as the use of a spotter. – Where the above exclusion / drop zone rules are unable to be met this shall be outlined in the Safe Work Method Statement and approved with any further control measures.
<p>Emergency Response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A documented Work at Height rescue plan or process is to be developed, well resourced, practiced and rehearsed (E.g., harness suspension trauma, jump form, scaffolds, elevated work platforms, man materials hoists and/or tower /gantry crane rescue scenarios).

WORK AT HEIGHTS – INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

Inspection of work at height related controls will be implemented as outlined in the table below.

Control	Inspection Details	Competent Person / Role
<p>Mobile elevated work platforms (MEWP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Daily mobile plant pre-use inspection (via formal pre-start inspection) and as defined in GA ‘Critical Risk Standard – Traffic, Plant & Equipment’. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Licenced / competent mobile plant operator (specific to that item of plant).
<p>Scaffolds, including temporary edge protection (tube and coupler scaffold components)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Immediately after erection (via installation / handover certificate and scaffold tags on scaffolds) – Every 30-days thereafter; or other as defined in GA ‘Critical Risk Standard – Scaffolding’. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – High Risk Work Licence specific to the scaffolding requirements.

Control	Inspection Details	Competent Person / Role
Temporary edge protection (Proprietary / Prefabricated Screens, barriers, handrails, guardrails)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Immediately after erection and prior to persons accessing (via installation / handover certificate). – Every 30-days thereafter and/or as per manufacturer’s requirements; or reinspection due to an incident, repairs, or modification as per the applicable Australian Standard (via inspection / certificate). Form GA-FRM-HSE-162 Work at Heights - Edge Protection Checklist or equivalent can be used to record ongoing inspections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Competent installer (as per proprietary system). – Specific training provided by the manufacturer / supplier.
Temporary edge protection (timber post and rails)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Immediately after erection (via installation / handover certificate) – Every 30-days thereafter; or due to an incident, repairs, or modification (via inspection / certificate). Form GA-FRM-HSE-162 Work at Heights - Edge Protection Checklist or equivalent can be used to record ongoing inspections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Competent installer (Cert. III in Carpentry or Cert III in Formwork/Falsework).
Fall protection system anchorage points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Immediately after installation (via installation plate / certificate for permanent anchorages; or confirmed as part of Work at Height Permit for temporary anchorages) – Immediately prior to use (e.g., confirmed as part of Work at Height Permit) – Following an incident or modification – Per manufacturer requirements or at least 6-monthly for permanent anchorages (via inspection / certificate). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – High Risk Work Licence / Rigger (anchorage points); or – Industrial rope access specialist; or – Specific training provided by the manufacturer / supplier.
Fall protection equipment (harnesses, lanyards, restraint / arrest devices, connectors, similar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Immediately prior to use (e.g., confirmed as part of Work at Height Permit). – Per manufacturer requirements and/or AS/NZS 1891 requirements and frequencies (via inspection logs / register / checklists). Form GA-FRM-HSE-164 Work at Heights / 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Competent person (RIIWH204E Work Safely at Heights, MEM15004 Height Safety Equipment Inspections or equivalent).

Control	Inspection Details	Competent Person / Role
	Equipment Register or equivalent can be used to record inspections.	

REGULATIONS, STANDARDS AND CODES

- Work Health & Safety Regulation 2011 (QLD, ACT), 2012 (SA), 2017 (NSW, NT) and 2022 (WA)
 - Part 3.1 (regs 32 – 38), Part 3.2 (regs 39 – 41, 54, 55), Part 4.4 Falls (regs 78 – 80)
- Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (VIC)
 - Part 3.3—Prevention of Falls
- Safe Work Australia Code of Practice: Managing the Risk of Falls at Workplaces
- New South Wales Code of Practice Managing the risk of falls at workplaces.
- ACT Code of Practice How to Prevent Falls at Workplaces
- Queensland Code of Practice Managing the Risk of Falls at Workplaces
- VIC Compliance Code Prevention of falls in general construction
- WA Code of Practice Prevention of falls at workplaces
- AS/NZS 4994 – Temporary Edge Protection Standards (and other AS/NZS 4994 suite of standards)
- AS/NZS 1418.10 – Cranes, hoists, and winches – Mobile elevating work platforms
- AS/NZS 2550.10 – Cranes, hoists, and winches – Safe use - Mobile elevating work platforms
- AS/NZS 5532 – Manufacturing requirements for single point anchor devices
- AS/NZS 1891 – Industrial fall arrest systems (and other AS/NZS 1891 suite of standards)
- AS/NZS 1657 – Fixed platforms, walkways, stairways, and ladders
- AS/NZS 1892.5 – Portable ladders Selection, safe use, and care

FORMS AND CHECKLISTS

- **GA-FRM-HSE-130** Permit to Work at Heights
- **GA-FRM-HSE-162** Work at Heights - Edge Protection Checklist
- **GA-FRM-HSE-164** Work at Heights - Equipment Register